

receiving the message at the server from the sender and receiving an indication at the server from the sender that the sender wishes to send the message in a manner special to the sender and intended for the recipient and not normally provided by the server,

transmitting, from the server to ~~an agent of the recipient~~[[a]] the message in the special manner, in accordance with the indication from the sender to the server, an identification and address of the server and the identity of the sender,

receiving at the server from the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient the identity of the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient and an indication of the receipt of the message by the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient and the identification and address of the server and the identity of the sender, and

sending to the sender from the server, before any authentication of the message,~~[[agent]] recipient~~ a copy of the message and the information received by the server from the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient.

2. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the transmission from the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient is in ~~[[the]]~~ [[a]] normal manner different from the special manner when the sender does not provide an indication to the server that the sender wishes the server to transmit the message in the special manner to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient.

3. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the indication received by the server from the ~~agent of the~~ recipient includes an identification of the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient and any transferring agents through whom the message has passed between the server and the ~~agent of the~~ recipient.

4. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 3, wherein
an encrypted hash of the message is provided by the server to the sender ~~[[as]]~~ a plurality of digits in a unique sequence and is sent by the server to the sender with the message after the indication is received by the server from the ~~agent of the~~ recipient.

5. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 3 wherein
the transmission from the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient is in ~~[[the]]~~ ~~[[a]]~~ normal manner different from the special manner intended for the recipient when the sender does not provide an indication to the server that the sender wishes the server to transmit the message in the special manner to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient and wherein
an encrypted hash of the message is provided by the server to the sender as a plurality of digits in a unique sequence and is sent by the server to the sender with the message after the indication is received by the server from the ~~agent of the~~ recipient.

6. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein
an additional indication is provided to the server~~[[,]]~~ with the message from the sender, in the special manner intended for the recipient, that a high priority should be provided by the server to the sending of the message by the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient and wherein
the server provides the high priority in sending the message, in the special manner intended for the recipient, to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient in accordance with the additional indication.

7. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 5 wherein
an additional indication is provided to the server in the special manner intended for the recipient, with the message from the sender that a high priority should be provided by the

server to the sending of the message, in the special manner intended for the recipient, by the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient and wherein

the server provides the high priority in sending the message in the special manner intended for the recipient to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient in accordance with the additional indication.

8. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein an additional indication is provided to the server with the message from the sender that the sending of the message by the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient in the special manner intended for the recipient should be recorded by the server and wherein

the server records the sending of the message, in the special manner intended for the recipient by the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient in accordance with the additional indication.

9. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim ~~[[4]]~~ [[5]] wherein an additional indication is provided to the server with the message from the sender that the sending of the message by the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient in the special manner intended for the recipient should be recorded by the server and wherein

the server records the sending of the message, in the special manner intended for the recipient, to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient in accordance with the additional indication.

10. (Currently amended): A method of transmitting a message from a sender to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, including the steps at the server of:
receiving the message at the server from the sender,
receiving at the server, with the message from the sender, an indication that the message is to be transmitted by the server in a special manner intended for the recipient and different from ~~[[the]]~~ manner normally provided by the server in transmitting messages,

transmitting from the server to ~~an agent of the recipient~~, in the special manner intended for the recipient and indicated by the sender to the server, the message and an identification and address of the server and an indication representing the identity of the sender, receiving at the server from the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient a handshaking and delivery history of the transmission of the message from the server to the ~~agent of the recipient~~, and transmitting from the server to the sender the message and an encrypted hash of the message and the handshaking and delivery history of the message received by the server from the ~~agent of the recipient~~.

11. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 10, including the steps of:
the indication from the ~~server~~ sender to the server being a first indication,
receiving at the server, with the message from the sender, an indication~~[[L]]~~
in addition to the first indication, from the server of an additional function to be performed in the transmission of the message from the server to ~~the agent of the recipient~~,
~~[[and]]~~

providing the additional function in the transmission of the message from the server to ~~the agent of the recipient~~ in accordance with the additional indication provided by the sender to the server.

12. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein
the message and an encrypted hash of the message are ~~[[is]]~~ sent by the server to the sender after the server receives from the ~~agent of the recipient~~ the handshaking and the delivery history of the transmission of the message from the server to the ~~agent of the recipient~~ but before the authentication of the message and wherein

the server does not retain the message or the encrypted hash after it sends the message and the encrypted hash to the sender and wherein

the sender sends the message and the encrypted hash to the server for authentication of the message by the server after the server discards the message and the encrypted hash of the message.

13. (Previously amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein
the additional indication from the sender to the server provides for a recording of
the transmission of the message and wherein
the transmission of the message is recorded in accordance with the additional
indication from the sender to the server.

14. (Previously amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein
the additional indication from the sender to the server provides for an archiving of
the message and
wherein the message is archived in accordance with the additional indication from
the sender to the server.

15. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein
the additional indication from the sender to the server provides for the message to
be sent by the server to ~~the agent for~~ the recipient by a special route and wherein
the message is sent by the special route from the server to the ~~agent of the~~
recipient in accordance with the additional indication from the sender to the server.

16. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein
the additional indication from the sender to the server provides for the message to
be specially handled by the server in the transmission of the message from the server to the ~~agent~~
~~of the~~ recipient and wherein

the message is specially handled by the server in the transmission of the message
from the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient in accordance with the additional indication from the
sender to the server.

17. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein
the additional indication from the sender to the server provides for a transmission
of the message with a high priority from the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient and wherein
the message is transmitted from the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient with the
high priority in accordance with the additional indication from the sender to the server.

18. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 11 wherein
the server destroys the message and the encrypted hash of the message after the
server transmits to the sender the message, the encrypted hash of the message and the
handshaking and delivery history of the message but before it authenticates the message,
the handshaking and delivery history of the message having been provided by the
recipient to the server before the server authenticates the message.

19. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 10 wherein
the server destroys the message and the encrypted hash of the message after it
receives the message from the recipient and after it transmits the message and the encrypted hash
of the message to the sender but before the server authenticates the message and wherein

when the sender wishes to authenticate the message and that the message was sent by the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient, the sender sends to the server the message and the encrypted hash of the message and wherein

the server operates upon the message and the encrypted hash of the message from the sender to authenticate the message[[.]]

20. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the server requests a delivery status notification from the ~~agent of the~~ recipient relating to the message when it transmits the message to the [[agent]] recipient and wherein the server receives the delivery status notification from ~~the agent of the~~ recipient when it receives the ~~digital signature of the~~ message from the [[agent]] recipient.

21. (Currently amended): In a method of transmitting a message through the internet to a recipient through a server displaced from the recipient, the steps at the server of:

receiving the message at the server from the sender,
generating a hash constituting a synopsis of the message in coded form,
encrypting the hash with a particular encryption code to generate an encrypted hash of the message,

receiving from the sender at the server an indication with the message from the sender that the message is to be handled by the server in a particular manner intended for the recipient and different from a normal handling of the message by the server, and

handling the message at the server in the particular manner[[;]] intended for the recipient in accordance with the indication from the sender to the server.

22. (Currently amended): In a method as set forth in claim 21, the steps of:
generating at the server, for [[~~any~~]] [[an]] attachment to the message, an encrypted hash of the attachment, and

transmitting at the server the attachment and the encrypted hash of the attachment to the sender at the same time, and in the same manner, that the message and the encrypted hash of the message are transmitted at the server to the sender.

23. (Currently amended): In a method as set forth in claim 22 wherein the message is handled by the server in ~~[[the]]~~ ~~[[a]]~~ normal manner, different from the particular manner intended for the recipient, when the indication is not provided by the sender to the server with the message and wherein the message is handled by the server in the particular manner intended for the recipient when the indication is provided by the sender to the server with the message.

24. (Original) In a method asset forth in claim 23 wherein the message is processed by the server in a first path when the indication is not provided by the sender to the server with the message and wherein the message is processed by the server in a second path different from the first path when the indication is provided by the sender to the server with the message.

25. (Currently amended): In a method as set forth in claim 21, the steps of: storing at the server, after passage of the message to the recipient, the message, the encrypted hash of the message, the name of the sender, the identity and address of the server and the identity and address of the recipient, and transmitting from the server to the sender~~[[,]]~~ for storage by the sender~~[[,]]~~ the message, the encrypted hash of the message, the name of the sender, the identity and address of the server and the identity and address of the recipient~~[[, and]]~~

thereafter discarding the message and the encrypted hash of the message at the server before the authentication of the message by the server.

26. (Currently amended): In a message as set forth in claim 22 wherein the message is transmitted by the server in a first path to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient when the indication is not provided by the sender to the server with the message and wherein

the message is processed by the server in a second path different from the first path when the indication is provided by the sender to the server with the message and wherein

the message, the encrypted hash of the message, the name of the sender, the identity and address of the server and the identity and address of the recipient are stored at the server after the passage of the message to the recipient, and wherein

the message, the encrypted hash of the message, the name of the sender, the identity and address of the server and the identity and address of the recipient are thereafter transmitted by the server to the sender for storage by the sender and wherein

the message and the encrypted hash of the message are thereafter discarded at the server before the authentication of the message and wherein

the message and the encrypted hash of the message are transported from the sender to the server when it is desired to authenticate the message.

27. (Currently amended): A method of transmitting a message from a sender to an ~~agent for~~ a recipient through a server displaced from the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient, including the steps of:

providing the message from the sender at the server,

providing at the server an encrypted hash of the message and the ~~identify~~ identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server,

normally transmitting from the server to the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient in a first route the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server,

providing an indication at the server from the sender that the message from the sender should be transmitted by the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient in a second route different from the first route,

transmitting the message from the server to ~~the agent of~~ the recipient through the second route in accordance with the indication provided to the server from the sender,

providing at the ~~agent of the~~ recipient an indication of the status of the reception at the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient of the transmittal from the server to the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient of the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and the address of the server, and

transmitting to the server from the ~~agent of the~~ recipient the identity and address of the agent and the status of the reception ~~[[at]]~~ ~~[[of]]~~ the ~~agent of the~~ message at the recipient and the identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server.

28. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 27 wherein the encrypted hash of the message includes a hash of the message and an encryption of the hash and wherein

the message and the encrypted hash of the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server and the identity and the address of the ~~agent of the~~ recipient and the status at the ~~agent of the reception at the~~ ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient of the reception of the message are transmitted by the server to the sender.

29. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 27 wherein the sender provides at the server for an indication of an additional function to be performed at the server and wherein

the server performs the additional function in accordance with the indication from the ~~server~~ sender.

30. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 29 wherein the additional indication at the server provides for the message to be specially handled for the recipient in the transmission of the message from the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient and wherein

the message is specially handled for the recipient in the transmission of the message from the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient in accordance with the additional indication at the server.

31. (Currently amended): A method s set forth in claim 28 wherein the sender provides at the server for an indication of an additional function to be performed at the server and wherein

the additional function represented by the additional indication provides for the message to be specially handled for the recipient in the transmission of the message from the server through the second route to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient and wherein

the message is specially handled for the recipient in the transmission of the message from the server through the second route to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient.

32. (Currently amended): A method of transmitting a message from a sender to ~~an agent for~~ a recipient through a server displaced from the ~~[[agent]]~~ [[recipient]], including the steps at the server of:

providing at the server an encrypted hash of the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and the address of the server,

normally transmitting[[.]] to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient[[.]] through a first path from the server[[.]] the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server,

receiving at the server from the sender an indication that the message should be sent by the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient through a second path different from the first path,

transmitting at the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient the message and the identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server through the second path different from the first path in accordance with the indication from the sender to the server,

receiving at the server from the ~~agent of the~~ recipient an indication of the identity of the sender and the identity and address of the server and the identity and address of the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient and an indication of the status of the reception of the message at the ~~[[agent]]~~ recipient, and

transmitting to the sender from the server the message and the encrypted hash of the message and the information received by the server from the ~~agent of the~~ recipient relating to the message.

33. (Currently amended): A method as set forth in claim 32 wherein
- the server destroys the message and the encrypted hash of the message after the server transmits the message and the encrypted hash of the message to the sender but before the server authenticates the message and wherein
- the sender sends the message and the encrypted hash to the server when the sender desires to have the message authenticated and wherein
- the server produces hashes from the message and the encrypted hash and wherein
- the server authenticates the message by comparing ~~[[the]]~~ hashes to determine if they are identical.

34. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 32 wherein
the server receives additional information from the sender relating to additional
functions to be performed by the server on the message in the transmission of the message from
the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient and wherein

the server performs the additional functions on the message, in accordance with
the additional information received by the server from the sender, in the transmission of the
message from the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient.

35. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 34 wherein
the indication received by the server from the sender constitutes a first coding of
the message from the sender and wherein

the additional information received by the server from the sender of the additional
function[[s]] to be performed by the server constitutes a second coding, added to the first coding,
of the message from the sender.

36. (Currently amended) A method set forth in claim 33 wherein
the server receives additional information from the sender relating to additional
functions to be performed by the server on the message in the transmission of the message from
the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient and wherein

the server performs the additional functions on the message, in accordance with
the additional information received by the server from the sender, in the transmission of the
message from the server to the ~~agent of the~~ recipient and wherein

the indication received by the server from the sender constitutes a first coding of
the message from the sender and wherein

the additional information received by the server from the sender of the additional
function to be performed by the server constitutes a second coding, added to the first coding, of
the message from the sender.

37. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 36 wherein
the sender transmits the message and the encrypted hash of the message to the
server when the sender wishes to have the message authenticated and wherein
the server operates upon the message[[.]] and the encrypted hash of the message,
transmitted from the sender, to have the message authenticated.

38. (Previously added) A method as set forth in claim 37 wherein
the server provides a first hash of the message and decrypts the encrypted hash to
provide a second hash of the message and compares the first and second hashes to authenticate
the message.

39. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 26 wherein
the message and the encrypted hash of the message are destroyed by the server
after the message and the encrypted hash of the message are transmitted by the server to the
sender but before the message is authenticated by the server.

40. (Currently amended) A method as set forth in claim 39 wherein
the sender transmits the message and the encrypted hash of the message to the
server, before the authentication of the message, when the sender wishes to have the message
authenticated and wherein
the server processes the message and the encrypted hash of the message to
authenticate the message.

41. (Previously added) A method as set forth in claim 40 wherein
the processing of the message and the encrypted hash of the message includes the
steps of creating a hash of the message and decrypting the encrypted hash to create a second hash
and comparing the hashes to determine if they are identical.